

Art Unit: 2623
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/784,9051
Examiner: S. Beliveau
Response to March 26, 2007 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing programming providers to offer subscribers programming events, the method comprising:
 - a. associating events spanning multiple channels over non-contiguous time slots to create packages ;
 - b. ~~generating~~ ~~communicating~~ an electronic programming guide, the electronic programming guide having a programming grid simultaneously listing a wrapper associated with each package and each package's associated events, the wrapper surrounding all the associated events for each package, the programming grid also simultaneously listing a start time and a stop time of each event associated with each package;

the electronic programming guide having a first mode in which inputs to a navigator scroll from one wrapper to another wrapper, and

the electronic programming guide having a second mode in which inputs to the navigator scroll from an one event to the same ~~another~~ event ~~within the same wrapper~~ between different packages;
 - c. recognizing the non-contiguous events; and
 - d. in response to recognizing the non-contiguous events, prompting to switch from the first mode to the second mode ~~wherein the programming grid is collapsed, thus displaying only channels, times and titles associated with the events in a respective package.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein associating events comprises combining events that are related by content, time, channel or source.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wrapper relates each package's associated events, such that the electronic programming guide simultaneously lists each package's wrapper and each package's associated events.

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4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising highlighting each wrapper as the navigator scrolls from one package to another package.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising expanding the electronic programming guide to include channel information concerning at least one event associated with a package.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic programming guide further comprises a collapsed mode in which only time information concerning the package are displayed.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic programming guide further comprises an expanded mode in which time and channel information concerning the events are displayed.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for offering users additional programming information concerning events of interest, comprising:

receiving an electronic programming guide having events spanning multiple channels over non-contiguous time slots associated with packages, the electronic programming guide having a programming grid simultaneously listing a wrapper associated with each package and each package's associated events, the wrapper surrounding all the associated events for each package, the programming grid also simultaneously listing a start time and a stop time of each event associated with each package;

receiving an input to a navigator that selects a first mode in which the navigator scrolls from one wrapper to another wrapper within the electronic programming guide;

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receiving another input to the navigator that selects a second mode in which the navigator scrolls from an one event to the another event within the same wrapper between different packages;

recognizing the non-contiguous events; and

in response to recognizing the non-contiguous events, prompting to switch from the first mode to the second mode ~~wherein the programming grid is collapsed, thus displaying only channels, times and titles associated with the events in a respective package.~~

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein receiving the electronic programming guide comprises receiving information selected from the group consisting of: pricing, content and scheduling information.
10. (Currently Amended) A system processing an electronic programming guide ("EPG"), comprising:

~~a processor executing a software module stored in memory;~~

means for the processor receiving events spanning multiple channels over non-contiguous time slots associated with packages;

means for the processor storing the electronic programming guide in the memory, the electronic programming guide having a programming grid that simultaneously lists a wrapper associated with each package and each package's associated events, the wrapper surrounding all the associated events for each package, the programming grid also simultaneously listing a start time and a stop time of each event associated with each package;

means for the processor producing a first mode of the electronic programming guide in which inputs to a navigator scroll from one wrapper to another wrapper;

means for the processor producing a second mode of the electronic programming guide in which inputs to the navigator scroll from an one event to the another event within the same wrapper between different packages;

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means for the processor recognizing the non-contiguous events; and
in response to recognizing the non-contiguous events, means for the processor
prompting a user to switch from the first mode to the second mode wherein the
~~programming grid is collapsed, thus displaying only channels, times and titles associated~~
~~with the events in a respective package.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the inputs are received from a remote control.
12. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the processor is adapted to receive a command to cause a display to show package information in a collapsed mode in which only limited scheduling information concerning a package's events are displayed.
13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the processor implements a zoom mode in which additional information is accessed, the additional information describing an event within a package.
14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein when a package comprises non-contiguous events, the processor implementing commands to the navigator that scrolls to a next time and a next channel of an associated event within a package.
15. (Currently Amended) A method for organizing and presenting program information within an electronic programming guide, the method comprising:

receiving events spanning multiple channels over non-contiguous time slots associated with packages;

receiving the electronic programming guide, the electronic programming guide having a programming grid that simultaneously lists a wrapper associated with each package and each package's associated events, the wrapper surrounding all the associated

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events for each package, the programming grid also simultaneously listing a start time and a stop time of each event associated with each package;

receiving an input that causes a navigator to scroll from one wrapper to another wrapper;

receiving another input that causes the navigator to scroll from an one event to the another event within the same wrapper between different packages;

recognizing the non-contiguous events; and

in response to recognizing the non-contiguous events, prompting to switch from a first mode to a second mode ~~wherein the programming grid is collapsed, thus displaying only channels, times and titles associated with the events in a respective package~~.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the wrapper relates the package's associated events, such that the electronic programming guide simultaneously lists the package's wrapper and the package's associated events.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein when a package comprises non-contiguous events, then causing the navigator to scroll to a next time and a next channel of an associated event within a package.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising causing each package to be highlighted as the navigator scrolls between packages.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising expanding a package, causing an event within the package to be highlighted, and communicating that the event is being purchased.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising receiving the input from a remote control.
21. (Canceled)

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- 22. (Canceled)
- 23. (Canceled)
- 24. (Canceled)
- 25. (Canceled)
- 26. (Canceled)
- 27. (Canceled)
- 28. (Canceled)
- 29. (Canceled)